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lectures" in Boston and in Columbia University. The purpose of the volume, as defined by the author, is "to provide students with a survey of the Roman empire, regarded in one of its most important aspects, that of a vast federation of commonwealths, retaining many of the characteristics of the old so-called 'city-state.' " In fulfilment of this purpose, Dr. Reid first surveys the different parts of the empire, beginning with Italy, showing the use made of the municipality in each. Then follows a chapter dealing with the internal organization of the municipalities, and the work concludes with a brief consideration of the decline of the municipalities and its disastrous consequences for the empire. It is, indeed, to this decline that the author would attribute the final ruin of the empire. One must suspect that it is doubtless owing to the necessary brevity of the treatment that this decline is treated too much as an independent cause, whereas it was itself the result of other and more deep-seated causes. Yet its importance was undoubtedly very great.

Upon the whole Dr. Reid has performed his difficult task with great success, and his work is a most welcome contribution to the literature of ancient history. It is to be regretted that space could not have been found for an appendix containing some of the more important laws and inscriptions to which frequent reference is made. This lack will, however, be the less felt as some of these are now readily available for the student in the excellent work of Mr. Hardy.

FRANK BURR MARSH

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Roman Ideas of Deity. By W. WARDE FOWLER. London: Macmillan, 1914. Pp. 167. \$1.40.

This series of lectures on religious tendencies at Rome in the first century before the Christian era is an interesting contribution to the history of monotheistic ideas. The author has endeavored to sift the strange medley of religious and philosophical ideas that prevailed in this period, with a view to determining what were the vital beliefs of distinctly Roman origin and how these tended toward a belief in one supreme deity. The difficulties of such a task are twofold: it is essential to separate native Roman ideas from Greek mythology and philosophy, and also, in the use of most literary evidence, to draw the line between formal homage to defunct conceptions and moribund deities and sincere religious beliefs.

The detailed study of Roman cults which this author has made, and his thorough acquaintance with the whole literature, give his conclusions an undoubted value. His lectures are all suggestive, but in the case of the "Domestic Deities" (Lecture I), and the discussion of the Jupiter cult which follows, the evidence is slight for a convincing argument. The third lecture, "Cosmic Ideas of Deity," contains a particularly illuminating treatment of that somewhat baffling conception, Fortuna. In two lectures of very special interest Fowler traces the rise of the emperor cult at Rome and points out an

important truth that may easily be overlooked, that the cult had a valid religious basis aside from mere adulation. The final lecture, which is devoted to the breaking down of the old polytheism in the Augustan age, covers ground already familiar to the average student. The religious ideas of Vergil, Horace, Ovid, Tibullus, and Propertius are discussed separately and in some detail. In each case lecture limits impose a rather sketchy treatment, but most readers of the Augustan poets will agree with the conclusions that are reached. In general, though not aggressively popular in style these lectures are thoroughly readable, and will appeal to anyone who has even a casual interest in the subject of Roman religion.

K. PRESTON

A Selection of Latin Verse. Edited by the Instructors in Latin in Williams College. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1914. 75 cents.

The members of the Latin department at Williams College deserve much credit for preparing this attractive little anthology of Latin verse. Though designed primarily for use in freshman classes at Williams, it should interest all who feel the need of enlarging and enriching the Latin program in our colleges. In its present form the book includes selections in chronological order from all the best writers of Latin poetry, beginning with Ennius and ending with the Latin hymns. The choice is good, and we miss few of our favorite poems and passages. In the index of authors and selections which is appended the editors have omitted, with reason doubtless, to include dates; these are of course readily accessible to the inquiring schoolboy, but it might be just as well to have them where they would occasionally strike even the unwilling eye. The editors promise to include commentary in a later edition. This will considerably increase the availability of the volume for general use. The make-up of the book is attractive, and it deserves a place in the library as well as in the classroom.

K. PRESTON

Greek Philosophy. Part I, Thales to Plato. By JOHN BURNET. London: Macmillan, 1914. Pp. x+360.

Professor Burnet has given us in his latest work a practical application of the principles of Platonism which he sets forth, for he has achieved that due Mixture in which are order and beauty and goodness, and has bridged for us the gap between the naked Form of the "pocket philosophy" and the Unlimited of German erudition. He has produced an account of the rise of Greek philosophy which is clear, logical, attractive in style, constantly suggestive, and remarkable as well for an admirable distribution of emphasis as for a conciseness which involves neither sacrifice of interest nor the omission of essential facts. It is worthy of a scholar who has spent a quarter of a century in studying the texts of the ancient writers on philosophy.